

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091063
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DRAFTED BY NEA:MDRAPER/HLK
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S E C R E T STATE 091063

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1-2

TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

1. FOLLOWING FYI ARE EXCERPTS FROM TEL AVIV 4646
(NODIS-NOTAL) RELEVANT TO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL QUESTION:

--I MET WITH WEIZMAN FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF ON APRIL 6 TO
CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL. I WAS ACCOMPANIED
BY COLONEL WILLIAMS. WEIZMAN CALLED IN ACTING DIRECTOR
OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, BRIGADIER GENERAL SAGI AND
LATER, GENERAL GUR.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 091063

--I TOLD WEIZMAN THAT THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF IDF
THIN OUT AND THE INDICATION THAT THEY INTENDED TO
COORDINATE FUTURE WITHDRAWALS WITH UNIFIL HAD BEEN
HELPFUL IN KEEPING DOWN THE PRESSURE THIS WEEK. HOWEVER
I EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE NOW IN THE FOURTH WEEK AFTER
ISRAELI ENTRANCE INTO SOUTH LEBANON AND THAT THE

PRESSURES CONTINUED TO BUILD FOR FURTHER WITHDRAWAL AND
FOR A DEFINITE LONG-RANGE TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL.

--WEIZMAN TOLD ME THAT CHIEF OF STAFF GUR HAD MET TODAY

WITH GENERAL SIILASVUO CONCERNING FUTURE WITHDRAWALS AND
CALLED IN ACTING DMI SAGI, WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED GUR DURING
THE SIILASVUO MEETING, TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED.
SAGI'S EXPLANATION NOT BEING TOTALLY CLEAR, WEIZMAN
SUCCEEDED IN FINDING GUR HIMSELF WHO JOINED US. GUR WAS
FRANK IN HIS DISCUSSION, EMPHASIZING THAT THE PROBLEMS
ENCOUNTERED BY THE UN ON THE GROUND WOULD NOT ALWAYS
ENABLE UNIFIL TO MEET THE POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS ESTAB-
LISHED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HOWEVER, HE DESCRIBED
TODAY'S MEETING WITH SIILASVUO AS BEING SATISFACTORY. GUR
SAID THAT THE ISRAELI FORCES WOULD WITHDRAW IN THE EASTERN
SECTOR TO A LINE THAT GENERALLY EXTENDS FROM THE HERMON
ABOUT TWO KMS NORTH OF AL MAJIDIYAH TO JUST NORTH OF AL MARI
TO NORTH OF IBIL AS SAQY, AROUND THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVE OF
MARJ UYUN TO THE LITANI RIVER JUST SOUTH OF HASBIYYAH
(EASTERN MOST) BRIDGE. THIS MOVE WILL TAKE PLACE BY THE
MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVE WILL NOT BE
INCLUDED IN THE AREA TAKEN OVER BY THE UN AND SMALL
ISRAELI FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO BE STATIONED IN THE
ENCLAVE. THE SECOND WITHDRAWAL, TO TAKE PLACE ABOUT
APRIL 14, WILL BE IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BY GUR AS THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 091063

"CENTRAL AREA." STARTING AT THE ISRAELI BORDER ABOUT
ONE KM SOUTH OF AL 'UDAYSAH, IT WILL EXTEND WEST TO
GHANDURIYAH AND FROM THERE NORTH TO THE RIVER. THE AKIA
BRIDGE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE AREA TURNED OVER TO THE
UN. IDF FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE TAYYIBAH ROAD
AS A LOGISTICAL ROUTE TO THE WEST.

-- GUR STATED THAT GENERAL SIILASVUO HAD AGREED THAT THE
UN WOULD MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT STATING THAT HE AND GENERAL
GUR HAD MET FOR THE PURPOSE OF COORDINATING FURTHER
ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS FROM SOUTH LEBANON. I SAID THAT THIS
WAS GOOD, BUT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY THAT WE HAVE A FURTHER
STATEMENT FROM THE ISRAELIS PROVIDING A LONG-RANGE PRO-
JECTION IN ADDITION TO THE CURRENT SCHEDULE SO AS TO
RESPOND TO THE POLITICAL PRESSURE IN NEW YORK. GUR
IMMEDIATELY STATED THAT HE SAW NO PROBLEM AT ALL IN SUCH
A STATEMENT, QUALIFYING THIS BY SAYING THAT IT WOULD OF
COURSE HAVE TO BE MADE CLEAR THAT SUCH WITHDRAWALS WOULD
BE BASED ON THE CAPABILITY OF THE UN TO MOVE IN. WEIZMAN
TOLD GUR TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PREPARATION OF SUCH A
STATEMENT, TO INCLUDE THE CONDITIONS APPLICABLE FOR THE
UN, AND TO COORDINATE IT WITH SIILASVUO. WEIZMAN TOLD ME

THAT HE WOULD SHOW IT TO US AS SOON AS IT IS PREPARED.

2. FOLLOWING RECEIPT, WE DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR LEWIS OUR CONCERN THAT A FURTHER ISRAELI STATEMENT PROVIDING A

LONG-RANGE PROJECTION MIGHT BE TOO EXPLICITLY CONDITIONAL AND CAUSE EVERYONE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. AMBASSADOR LEWIS' RESPONSE IS CONTAINED IN TEL AVIV 4674, BEING REPEATED ADDRESSEES.

3. WE ALSO NOTE FROM USUN 1322 THAT BEGIN LETTER TO WALDHEIM CONTAINS THE SENTENCE THAT "THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS INTENTION (TO WITHDRAW) IS, OF COURSE, CONDITIONAL UPON THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE UN FORCES IN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 091063

THE AREA...." WE HAVE ASKED THAT HERZOG AND UN NOT CIRCULATE THE LETTER IN HOPES THAT THE ISRAELIS CAN BE PERSUADED TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH IS LESS EXPLICITLY CONDITIONAL.

4. FOR TEL AVIV: YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO WEIZMAN AND CONVEY TO HIM THE FOLLOWING. THE LIMITED OPERATIONAL REDEPLOYMENT PLAN WORKED OUT WITH SIILASVUO AND THE UN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT IT WERE HELPFUL IN TEMPORARILY RELIEVING PRESSURES FOR EARLY ACTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THEY DO NOT, HOWEVER, MEET THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A STATEMENT IS OF SOME URGENCY TO AVOID DISRUPTIVE STEPS IN SECURITY COUNCIL CONTEXT COMING WEEK AND TO ALLEVIATE CONCERNS AMONG TROOP CONTRIBUTORS AND WITHIN UN GENERALLY. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A STATEMENT MAKING EXPLICIT THAT ISRAEL WILL WITHDRAW TOTALLY FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY AND OUTLINING AN OPERATIONAL PLAN INDICATING HOW AND IN WHAT TIMEFRAME THIS WILL BE CARRIED OUT. SUCH A STATEMENT COULD ALSO OUTLINE THE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR FULL DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL FORCES BUT SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED UNTIL EVERY DETAIL OF UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT PLAN IS WORKED OUT. IT SHOULD IDEALLY INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL INTENDS TO BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY COMPLETELY BY AN APRIL DATE. A MENTION OF MAY WOULD BE DISTINCTLY TROUBLESOME.

RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON "CONDITIONS" OR UNIFIL "CAPACITIES," IT WOULD BE BEST TO STRESS UNIFIL'S "DETERMINATION" TO STABILIZE SITUATION IN SOUTH, THEREBY "REDUCING" THE THREAT TO ISRAEL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 091063

5. YOU MAY TELL WEIZMAN THAT WHAT WOULD CAUSE THE MOST
SERIOUS PROBLEMS WOULD BE ANY REFERENCE TO THE
ORIGINAL CONDITIONS POSED BY GUR TO SIILASVUO ON
MARCH 25 (JERUSALEM 875). WE ASSUME THAT THE ISRAELIS
WOULD NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FORCES, THE
GOOD FENCE, OR UNIFIL OCCUPATION OF HASBAYYA AND

BEAUFORT, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED THEY MIGHT BE TEMPTED
TO SAY PUBLICLY THAT THE TYRE AREA MUST BE SECURED
BY UNIFIL BEFORE THE IDF WILL WITHDRAW FULLY.
THAT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. VANCE

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